THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL
Memphis, Tennessee
August 9, 1962

Cigaret-Cancer Evidence Grows

The Commercial Appeal-Chicago Daily News Service

CHICAGO, Aug. 8. — Tobacco has been in this country for centuries. But not until eight years ago did it become a scientific controversy. The American Cancer Society announced in 1954 its studies showed that cigarets in particular produced lung cancer.

Since then, more than 1,000 medical reports have been written attacking and supporting the statement.

Here in question and answer form is the debate up to date:

Q.—Which way has the evidence gone since 1954?

A.—The American Cancer Society says the evidence has become firmer. The ACS now eliminates all reservations in its statements. There is no longer any question of the relationship. Statistics show there is significantly more lung cancer among heavy (two packs) smokers, both men and women, than in non-smokers or light smokers.

The American Heart Association says its statistics indicate smoking may contribute to coronary heart disease or accelerate it.

The surgeon-general of the United States Public Health Service in 1959 said the weight of evidence increasingly points to a cigaret cause of lung cancer.

The National Tuberculosis Association has called for an educational campaign among teenagers on the evils of smoking.

The Royal College of Physicians in England reported this year that cigaret smoking is the most likely cause of the worldwide increase in deaths from lung cancer and also may increase coronary deaths and tuberculosis.

Q.—Is there any evidence on the other side?

A.—The Tobacco Industry Research Committee, a group of independent scientists, said it has supported grants totaling $5,000,000 and no findings yet have emerged to substantiate the ACS position.

The committee says the cigaret theory is still a theory because it is based on tabulating machines and IBM punch cards. Statistical data are only suggestive, not scientific proof. The basic causes must be sought, the committee says.

Q.—What other causes could be involved?

A.—The tobacco committee offers several possibilities: How much lung cancer arises as a result of previous lung damage by bacterial infection such as tuberculosis or pneumonia? How about heredity? Constitutional traits? How about viruses? Pollution? Diet deficiencies? Social factors? Stress and strain?

Q.—Is there any helpful information derived from animal studies?

A.—Several studies have demonstrated that the tar derived from tobacco smoke condensate can produce cancer in mice or rabbits if applied repeatedly to the skin over a period of time. However, efforts to produce lung cancer in rats by exposing them to tobacco smoke have not been successful.

Q.—How has the controversy affected smoking among the public?

A.—Very little, it appears. Except for 1954, when the ACS announcement was made, sales of cigarets have been rising steadily. More than 500 billion are made each year—a half a pack a day for every American more than 14 years old.

Q.—What should the doubtful do?

A.—The choice is an individual one. Consult your physician. He may think the evidence is sufficient. The suggestion of a health hazard, together with the expense and messiness of cigaret smoking, may be enough to cause you to stop smoking. On the other hand, you may decide that the psychological satisfactions to be derived from smoking outweigh any health hazard.

Q.—What does the American Medical Association say?

A.—It has just begun its own study of the controversy and will make a report in about a year.

PRESS-SCIMITAR
Memphis, Tennessee
August 21, 1962

Dr. Horn's Study Links Smoking With Cancer

Survey Doesn't Support Theory That Drinking May Be Factor

By CLYDE PATTON JR., *Press-Scimitar Staff Writer*

Dr. Daniel Horn, co-arthur of the Hammond-Horn Study, one of the earliest and most comprehensive reports linking lung cancer with smoking, today in Memphis gave the results of another survey he has made.

He told delegates to the International Association of Laryngectomees eleventh annual convention at Hotel Peabody today what he had discovered from a survey of 3366 laryngectomees during 1960-1961.

A laryngectomee is a person who has had his larynx removed, usually because of throat cancer.

Dr. Horn said the survey's chief contribution to the general medical field was to substantiate previous evidence linking all forms of smoking with throat cancer.

About Drinking

He also said that the survey did not support previous evidence that excessive drinking alone or in combination with smoking may be a factor in larynx cancer. "The data from this study do not throw any light on this hypothesis," he said.

"There is no question that the large majority of laryngectomees who drink at all do not feel that their drinking had anything to do with their larynx cancer," he said.

Dr. Horn said the age distribution of the group surveyed shows that most of the persons with throat cancer are in the late middle ages. Two per cent of the laryngectomees surveyed were below the age of 40.

The ratio of men to women is slightly aover 10 to 1, he said.

Dr. Horn is director of program evalution for the American Cancer Society, New York N. Y.

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